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ROMANIAN MILITARY NEWSLETTER

**NATO Day celebrated at the Ministry of
National Defence Headquarters**

Special points of interests:

- NATO Day celebrated at the Ministry of National Defence Headquarters
- The 100th anniversary of the „Aurel Vlaicu“ Air Force Combat Training School
- Multinational exercise Black Sea Rotational Force 12
- State Secretary of Defence Policy and Planning, Viorel Oancea, participated in the Foreign Affairs Council meeting, Brussels



The Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, reviewing the Guard of Honor

NATO Day was celebrated at the MoND HQ before the Defence Minister, Gabriel Oprea, with a ceremony organized on April 1st.

During the military ceremony celebrating 63 years since the establishment of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and eight years since Romania has joined the Alliance, Romanian and NATO Colors were hoisted while Romanian and NATO anthems were played. The event was attended by military and civil personnel from MoND HQ and the three services.

NATO Day was also celebrated with ceremonies organized in military units across the country in cooperation with local authorities.

„NATO Day in Romania“ is celebrated according to the provisions of Law No. 390 /2004 and it is a celebration of the „European and Euro-Atlantic democracy and spirit“.

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The 100th anniversary of the „Aurel Vlaicu“ Air Force Combat Training School



The Minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, addresses the military participating in the ceremony

On Saturday, March 31st, at Boboc, *Aurel Vlaicu* Air Force Combat Training School celebrated 100 years since its establishment. The minister of National Defence, Gabriel Oprea, congratulated the personnel working in this Romanian Armed Force's *elite unit that continues the traditions set by the first Romanian Flight Military School* and thanked them for the efforts they made in order to promote the fame and prestige of the School. While reviewing the achievements of the didactic personnel and instructors of this veritable citadel, the minister of defence emphasized the fact that the commissioned officers, non-commissioned officers and the civilian personnel manning this educational institution stood for a *united team of valuable people, trained at the highest standards* and wished everybody *Many Years Ahead! and Clear Sky!*

We are celebrating 100 years of continuous performance in the aviation field; the Air Force

Application School's personnel generously and modestly dedicated its accomplishments to the Romanian Armed Force and to our country. The institution currently ensures the further development programs for the personnel manning the aviation, artillery, SAM missile and radar units. The fact that „Aurel Vlaicu“ Air Force Application School stands for a modern training structure, recognized in the aeronautical educational system that sets high development standards for those who serve their country under the Air Forces colours is your merit, mentioned minister Gabriel Oprea in his speech.

Throughout its ten decades of history, *Aurel Vlaicu* Air Force Application School (currently headed by colonel Marius-Mihai Ouatu) trained all Romanian military pilot generations starting with those who fought during the Second World War up to the specialized military and civilian aviators. By paying homage to the creative genius of military engineer Aurel Vlaicu, the minister of national defence reminded the two titans of the Romanian and world aviation titans, Traian Vuia and Henri Coandă as well as *those audacious heroes whose wings tragically fell in combat or training missions*, at the same time emphasizing that the sky heroes of all times *are an example of devotion and love for our country and for the Romanian people.*

Gabriel Oprea especially addressed the students whom he urged to pay maximum attention to their professional education because they are going to be *the future ambassadors of Romania in the international missions. Train as you fight and you'll definitely know the success*, emphasized the minister. *The graduates of this school gained their good name as elite aviators by their hundreds and thousands of flight hours during the combat or training missions impeccably executed together with the most advanced military aviations worldwide whether domestically or abroad. I am convinced that you, as best professionals, exceptional instructors and students, will continue to be devoted to the highest training standards, connected to the combat field realities and will maintain this School in the Romanian military educational system elite.*

During the same ceremony lieutenant-general Cârnu Fănică, the Chief of Air Force Staff, unveiled a memorial plaque, while a synod of military priests held the mess. Three formations of aircrafts and helicopters of the School flew above Boboc Airport to salute this ceremony.

Other air force reserve general officers and commissioned officers who were commandants, instructors or students of the Air Force Application School, military and civilian personnel of the ministry's central structures and Services, representatives of the local authorities as well as members of the families of the instructors and students attending *Aurel Vlaicu* Application School were also present at the ceremony.

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Multinational exercise Black Sea Rotational Force 12

Between April 2nd and September 1st, Romania will host the Black Sea Rotational Force 12 (BSRF-12) multinational exercise where 650 troops, approximately, from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Republic of Macedonia and United States of America. Romanian Armed Forces will be present in this exercise with more than 1000 troops and military techniques belonging to the three services.

BSRF-12 exercise is led by the US Marines Corps deployed in Europe (MARFOREUR) and is carried out on several states' territories from the Black Sea area, Balkans and Caucasus, aiming at increasing the interoperability level by training military to participate in peace keeping missions.

The training is scheduled in modules that exercise different activities such as: preparation before the deployment in theatres of operations, participation in peace keeping missions, first aid while on battlefield, parachuting, NCO's professional growth, debriefings on specific topics.

State Secretary of Defence Policy and Planning, Viorel Oancea, participated in the Foreign Affairs Council meeting, Brussels

A Ministry of National Defence delegation headed by the State Secretary of Defence Policy and Planning, Viorel Oancea, participated on Thursday, March 22nd, in the Foreign Affairs Council meeting, Brussels.

The Foreign Affairs Council proceedings were prefaced by a Reunion of the European Defence Agency's Steering Board to discuss the perspectives of the EU's military capabilities, especially the Agency's Pooling & Sharing initiatives that aim at sharing military capabilities while enhancing operational cost-effectiveness.

The Council's agenda included topics concerning the EU operations and missions, with a special stress on the developments from the Horn of Africa (EUNAVFOR ATALANTA counter-piracy operation, EUTM Somali armed forces' training operation) and Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR ALTHEA military operation). There have also been approached aspects related to the EU's partnerships with important defence and security organizations (NATO) as well as with third parties states participating in missions and operations under the Common Security and Defence Policy aegis.